

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 OES-06 /025 W

-----081643Z 126960 /43

R 072150Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5563

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

UNCLAS BELIZE 0242

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR ETRD BH

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR USDA FUMIGATION INSPECTOR

GUATEMALA FOR AGATT FRANCIS JACK

1. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM LETTER FROM GOB MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LANDS FLORENCIO MARIN TO USDA'S ANIMAL AND PLANT INSPECTION SERVICE (PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE PROGRAM) PROTESTING WHAT MARIN CONSIDERS REVERSAL OF COMMITMENT BY USDA TO PROVIDE A FUMIGATION INSPECTOR FOR MANGO CROP HERE:

"UPON THE VIST OF DR. BALL EARLY THIS YEAR CORRESPONDENCE WAS ENTERED INTO CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF AN INSPECTOR FOR THE FUMIGATION OF MANGOES IN RESPECT OF THE 1977 CROP. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PROVISION OF AN INSPECTOR WAS FULLY AGREED. DR. J. MC CLERY NOW TELLS ME THAT HE HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT AN INSPECTOR WILL NOT BE PROVIDED. THE PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER IS TO REQUEST THAT IF THIS IS SO, THE DECISION BE RECONSIDERED. BELIZE IS WHOLLY DEPENDENT ON AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS FOR ITS ECONOMIC WELL-BEING - THE EXPORT OF MANGOES IS A RELATIVELY NEW, BUT IMPORTANT PART OF THE ECONOMY. THE ONLY SUITABLE OUTLET FOR THESE FRUITS IS THE U.S.A. WHERE PRIOR FUMIGATION UNDER SUPERVISION IS A NECESSITY FOR ENTRY. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY HELP YOU CAN GIVE TO SECURE A

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FAVOURABLE DECISION IN THIS MATTER."

CONGEN WILL POUCH SIGNED LETTER TO USDA, COPY TO ARA/CEN.

2. IS STRONGLY ENDORSE MINISTER MARIN'S REQUEST THAT USDA RECONSIDER ITS DECISION NOT TO FURNISH FUMIGATION INSPECTOR. DR. MC CLEARY IS LONG-TIME AMERICAN CITIZEN RESIDENT OF

BELIZE AND WELL REGARDED LOCAL PHYSICIAN. FOR YEARS HE HAS SOUGHT, WITH ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS, TO MARKET MANGOES GROWN BY TROPICAL PRODUCE CO., IN WHICH HE HAS INVESTED HEAVILY AND IS PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDER. LACK OF SUCCESS HAS BEEN DUE TO MARKETING DIFFICULTIES AND LOW YIELDS. THIS YEAR, HOWEVER, YIELD IS HEAVY AND FAVORABLE MARKET EXISTS. FAILURE OF USDA TO FURNISH INSPECTOR WILL DENY TROPICAL PRODUCE ACCESS TO U.S. MARKET AND WILL RESULT IN DISASTROUS LOSS TO COMPANY AND DR. MC CLEARY. WE ARE INFORMED THAT TROPICAL FRUIT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY GO INTO RECEIVERSHIP AS RESULT.

3. IN PAST YEARS USDA HAS MAINTAINED THAT QUANTITIES OF FRUIT WERE INSUFFICIENT TO JUSTIFY PROVIDING INSPECTORS. CURRENT CROP, HOWEVER, APPARENTLY IS LARGE ENOUGH TO FULLY JUSTIFY INSPECTOR, AND IN MID-MARCH DR. MC CLEARY RECEIVED LETTER FROM ACTING APHIS REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR MEXICO STATING THAT DIRECTOR HAD AGREED THAT "WE CAN AND WILL FURNISH INSPECTORS WHEN YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR FUMIGATION CHAMBER". LETTER ALSO SPECIFIED MANNER IN WHICH MC CLEARY SHOULD REQUEST CONTRACT WITH USDA FOR INSPECTION SERVICE, METHOD OF PAYING DEPOSIT TO APHIS (INSPECTION BY USDA PERSONNEL WOULD BE AT MC CLEARY'S EXPENSE, NOT USDA'S), AND SOURCE OF EQUIPMENT FOR FUMIGATION CHAMBER. ON BASIS THIS LETTER MC CLEARY UNDERSTANDABLY FELT HE WAS ASSURED OF INSPECTION SERVICE AND BEGAN CONSTRUCTION OF FUMIGATION CHAMBER, ALONG WITH ARRANGEMENT TO PAY U.S. \$5,000 DEPOSIT TO APHIS. HE LEARNED OF USDA'S DECISION NOT TO PROVIDE SERVICE ALMOST BY ACCIDENT EARLIER THIS WEEK.

4. ASIDE FROM INEQUITY TO DR. MC CLEARY AND TROPICAL PRODUCE
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CO., USDA'S DECISION, IF IT STANDS, WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT BELIZE'S CHRONICALLY SHORT FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS, RUN COUNTER TO USG/ECONOMIC POLICY IN THIS COUNTRY, AND INEVITABLY GENERATE SERIOUSLY UNFAVORABLE LOCAL REACTION. AS MARIN STATES IN QUOTED LETTER, BELIZE IS ALMOST WHOLLY DEPENDENT ON AGRICULTURAL SALES ABROAD FOR EXCHANGE EARNINGS.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT TAKE THIS MATTER UP WITH USDA WITH VIEW TOWARD OBTAINING REQUESTED RECONSIDERATION. WE UNDERSTAND USDA POINT OF CONTACT MIGHT BE MR. G. G. ROHWER, DIRECTOR NPPS.
GAWF

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FRUIT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, INSPECTIONS, AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: BELIZE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770479/aaaacqwy.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c3d2c9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AGRE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2872780
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR USDA FUMIGATION INSPECTOR GUATEMALA FOR AGATT FRANCIS JACK
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, BH, US, AGR, (MARIN, FLORENCIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c3d2c9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009